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SUBJECT: GERMAN GENERAL SAYS NO THANKS TO GALILEO; ESA NOW
WORKING DEFENSE

¶1. (SBU) SUMMARY: At the 3rd Annual Space Systems and Security Conference in Potsdam, Germany, a senior German officer firmly stated that his country does not anticipate being a customer of the European Galileo Guidance Navigation Satellite System (GNSS). Separately, a European Space Agency (ESA) official emphasized the need to strengthen ESA's role in European defense projects. The conference was held from May 26-27 and featured presentations on space situational awareness (SSA), domestic security, Galileo, and advanced remote sensing satellites. END SUMMARY

GERMAN GENERAL SAYS NO TO GALILEO

¶2. (SBU) German Luftwaffe Lieutenant General Friedrich W. Ploeger of the German Joint Air Power Competence Center, frankly told conference attendees that the German military "does not have a military need for Galileo." Ploeger said the alliance the German military has with the USG for use of GPS is robust/working and remarked the German military's limited budget would restrict its involvement with the Galileo program.

ESA ANTICIPATES GREATER ROLE IN EU SECURITY

¶3. (SBU) Dr. Thomas Beer of the ESA outlined ESA's plans to enter into European defense projects, a departure from its original charter limiting activities to the peaceful use of outer space. Beer said the peaceful use of outer space, clause in ESA's charter was "re-examined" and it was determined that nothing in this clause prevented ESA from participating in European defense activities, as long as these activities do not involve "aggressive activities." Beer stated that ESA now has the European legal and policy authorization to work on EU defense projects.
Koenig